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A circular stamp from the Office of Intellectual Property (OIP). The text "OIP" is at the top, "JCA2" is on the right, and "PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" is at the bottom. The date "MAY 08 2003" is stamped in the center. The number "204" is visible at the top edge of the stamp.

In re Application of:

Examiner: L. Wong

Group Art Unit: 1761

For: N-[N-(3,3-DIMETHYLBUTYL)-1- α -ASPARTYL]-L-PHENYLALANINE 1-METHYL ESTER AS A SWEETENER IN CHEWING GUM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This paper is presented in connection with a Request for Continued Examination in the above-referenced application.

Please amend the application as follows:

Cancel Claim 25.

Amend Claim 23 as follows:

Amended Claims—Clean Version

19. (Amended) A chewing gum composition comprising N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester in an amount effective to sweeten said chewing gum composition, wherein between 6 and 10 minutes of chewing time, the average sweetness intensity loss rate is less than 0.3 intensity units per minute.